

~~SECRET~~

URUGUAY

I. Status and Strength of the Communist Party of Uruguay

The Communist Party is a small, articulate party which enjoys legal status. While it has never been a factor in national politics, and at present has only 2 seats in the Congress, it has important influence in the labor movement and some following in intellectual circles. The Party, under new leadership since 1955, has followed a line stressing domestic issues and trade union objectives which has helped to strengthen its position with workers. However, the Party suffered a considerable setback following the Hungarian revolt, and its effort to achieve labor unity through the establishment of a Communist-dominated federation to include all labor unions has met with slight response. Communist propaganda in Uruguay is assisted by pro-Communists among the local Slavic population. It has also received useful support from increased Soviet bloc economic activity in the area since 1954. The PCU's estimated membership is about 3,000 with approximately 15,000 sympathizers.

II. Party Units Responsible for Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping or Terrorist Missions

a. Units which participated in demonstrations against the showing of the film "The Iron Curtain" in October 1948 were directed by a Communist deputy of the National Parliament and by a Communist representative of the Montevideo Municipal Council. No other details regarding these units are available.

b. Participating in a riot at Carmelo, Department of Colonia in July 1956 was a small, well-organized group of men who were primarily responsible for inciting the crowd to violence, pushing the group forward from behind and providing bags of stones and picks with which to pry up cement sidewalk tiles for additional ammunition. The group probably consisted of members of the PCU fraction in the local Committee for the Defense of Popular Interests.

~~SECRET~~

c. Prior to the 7 November Communist celebration in 1957, the PCU organized strong-arm squads which were used to protect Soviet installations as well as the Communist rally in the municipal plaza on that date. The squads were organized on a sectional basis and varied in number between six and ten men. Assignments to the squads were made by the Central Committee. Several of the squads were grouped into brigades which were apparently intended for action of a more aggressive nature. The only brigade in operation in the latter part of November 1957 was in the meat-packing district where operations consisted of breaking up List 14 and List 15 political meetings. (List 14 and List 15 are the two principal factions within the ruling Colorado Party.)

III. Sabotage Training Given Within Uruguay

Negative.

IV. Sabotage Training Given Communists of Uruguay in Communist Bloc Countries

Negative.

V. Sabotage, Assassination, Kidnapping, Terrorist Missions and Targets

a. U.S. and/or U.S. Allies Personnel, Installations

Riots and demonstrations were set off by PCU in October 1948 to disrupt the showing of the film "The Iron Curtain", based on the Gouzenko story of Soviet espionage in Canada.

b. Other Sabotage Targets

Communists stirred up protests in Uruguay in 1956 against a local law requiring pasteurization of milk. The crowds stoned the municipal building and forced authorities

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

to suspend the law pending a plebiscite. Industrial sabotage in the form of slowdowns and frequent strike action occurred during 1957.

VI. Evidence of Direction and Support from the USSR, China or Other Communist Country

Negative.

IX. Estimate of Threat from Local Communist Party Sabotage, Terrorism, etc.

PCU will probably seize upon every local grievance to instigate isolated incidents of violence and demonstrations. Violence and sabotage on a national scale probably will not occur until the PCU succeeds in strengthening its membership and influence.

~~SECRET~~